Amendments to the Claims:

1-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently amended) A broadcast network access-management system comprising

at least one master decoding device provided with a smart card;

at least one slave decoding device;

a connection linking the master decoding device and the slave decoding device;

other devices cooperating with the master decoding device and/or the slave decoding device;

a transmitter device generating and transmitting entitlement management messages intended for the master and slave decoding devices and ~~external~~ the other devices

wherein

the connection linking the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12) is continuously checked regarding a level of a signal exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the at least one slave decoding device (12) compared with a level of a signal sent between the master decoding device (11) and the at least one slave decoding device (12) during preceding communication, and the at least one slave decoding device (12) is allowed to operate~~s when the connection between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12) remains unchanged or changes in allowable limits~~ based on comparison of the level of the signal exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the at least one slave decoding device (12) with the level of the signal sent between the master decoding device (11) and the at least one slave decoding device (12) during preceding communication.

45. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein a decoding device is assigned a status of the master decoding device (11) only after it has been linked to a network and an entitlement control message for the master decoding device (11) has been found.

46. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein the master decoding device (11) imposes on the transmitter device (3) a transmission of the entitlement control message appropriate for the master decoding device (11).

47. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein a decoding device is granted with a mode of the slave decoding device (12) only after it has been linked to a network and an entitlement control message for the slave decoding device (12) has been found.

48. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein the slave decoding device (12) imposes on the transmitter device (3) a transmission of the entitlement control message appropriate for the slave decoding device (12).

49. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12), when they are turned on, first check if any messages are being transmitted by other devices before they start to transmit messages.

50. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein the slave decoding device (12) triggers the master decoding device (11) to transmit the entitlement control message appropriate for the slave decoding device (12) and messages with demand for coupling.

51. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein a period of time for coupling the master decoding device (11) with the slave decoding device (12) is pre-set.

52. (Currently amended) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein accuracy of the connection between the master decoding device (11) and [[the] said at least one slave decoding device (12) is determined from [[a]] the level of [[a]] the signal exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and [[the]] said at least one slave decoding device (12).

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein decoding devices are assigned the status of the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12) after transmission of encoded messages by the transmitter device (3) generating and transmitting specified codes.

55. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein a private television network (13) shares physical linkages with a broadcast network (3).

56. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein the entitlement management messages, allowing the master decoding device (11) and at least one slave decoding device (12) an access to the broadcast network, are transmitted after encoded messages are sent by the transmitter device (3) which is designed to generate and transmit specific codes.

57. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein management messages sent to the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12) are generated by a generator (7) connected to a multiplexer (5) through another generator (6) which creates messages, and the management messages sent to the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12) are included in the entitlement management message.

58. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein messages exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15) are messages used to identify the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15), systems that are their component parts, or external devices (267) linked to them.

59. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 58, wherein the messages used to identify the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15) include a type of the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15), their version and/or their serial number.

60. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein messages exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15) are messages used to identify software.

61. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 60, wherein the messages used to identify software include a version number and/or a serial number of the software.

62. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein messages exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15) are messages facilitating interaction between the decoding devices (11, 12, 15), systems integral to them, or between software installed in the decoding devices (11, 12, 15) or devices co-operating with them.

63. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein messages exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15) are messages which incorporate an operating status of a given device/program, a result of a certain operation, an order to execute a certain operation and data collected or processed by a certain device/software.

64. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein messages exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15) are messages generated either within the decoding devices (11, 12, 15) or delivered from external sources.

65. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein messages exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15) are internet data, text messages, streams and files containing sound, pictures, video and software, and/or updates of software.

66. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein messages exchanged between the master decoding

device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15) contain additional messages generated by software installed in the decoding device or devices which are co-operating with them, or the messages which are delivered to the decoding devices from outside sources.

67. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein messages exchanged between the master decoding device (11), the slave decoding devices (12), and outside devices consist of synchronising bytes (300), a heading (301) with a source and a destination addresses (302, 303), a type (305) of message, a flag (304) with information as to whether the message contains data and the message (306) determining the size of the block of data, and also data (307) constituting the message (referred to as a payload), and a checksum (308).

68. (Currently amended) A management method of signal receivers provided with smart cards and linked to a television broadcast network, among which at least one device is [[the]] a master decoding device linked to ~~with~~ at least one slave decoding device and an interlinked transmitter device which generates and transmits messages that allow to use the master decoding device and [[the]] said at least one slave decoding ~~devices~~ device ~~and receivers connected to them~~, the management method comprising the following steps:

linking the master decoding device (11) and said at least one slave decoding device (12) via ~~through~~ a connection;

checking ~~continuously the connection between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12) for changes occurred~~ a level of a signal exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the at least one slave decoding device (12) for changes occurred;

comparing the level of a signal exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12) with a level of a signal exchanged

between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12) during preceding communication

allowing [[the]] said at least one slave decoding device (12) to operate ~~only when the connection between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12) remains unchanged or changes in allowable limits~~ based on comparison of the level of the signal exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and said at least one slave decoding device (12) with the level of the signal exchanged between the master decoding device and said at least one slave decoding device (12) during preceding communication.

69. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein a decoding device is assigned the status of the master decoding device (11) only after it has been linked to a network and an entitlement control message for the master decoding device (11) has been found.

70. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein the master decoding device (11) imposes on the transmitter device a transmission of the entitlement control message appropriate for the master decoding device (11).

71. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein a decoding device is granted with a mode of the slave decoding device (12) only after it has been linked to a network and an entitlement control message for the slave decoding device (12) has been found.

72. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein the slave decoding device (12) imposes on the transmitter device a transmission of the entitlement control message appropriate for the slave decoding device (12).

73. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12), when they are turned on, first check if any messages are being transmitted by other devices before they start to transmit messages.

74. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein the slave decoding device (12) triggers the master decoding device (11) to transmit the entitlement control message appropriate for the slave decoding device (12) and messages with demand for coupling.

75. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein a period of time for coupling the master decoding device (11) with the slave decoding device (12) is pre-set.

76. (Currently amended) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein accuracy of the connection between the master decoding device (11) and [[the] said at least one slave decoding device (12) is determined from [[a]] the level of [[a]] the signal exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and [[the]] said at least one slave decoding device (12).

77. (Cancelled)

78. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein decoding devices are assigned the status of the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12) after transmission of encoded messages by the transmitter device (3) generating and transmitting specified codes.

79. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein a private television network (13) shares physical linkages with a broadcast network (8).

80. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein the entitlement management messages, allowing the master decoding device (11) and at least one slave decoding device (12) an access to the broadcast network, are transmitted after encoded messages are sent by the transmitter device (3) which is designed to generate and transmit specific codes.

81. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein management messages sent to the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12) are generated by a generator (7) connected to a multiplexer (5) through another generator (6) which creates messages, and the management messages sent to the master (11) and the slave decoding devices (12) are included in the entitlement management message.

82. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein messages exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15) are messages used to identify the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15), systems that are their component parts, or external devices (267) linked to them.

83. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 82, wherein the messages used to identify the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15) include a type of the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15), their version and/or their serial number.

84. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 68, wherein messages exchanged between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding devices (12, 15) are messages used to identify software.

85. (Previously presented) The management method, according to claim 84, wherein the messages used to identify software include a version number and/or a serial number of the software.

86. (Previously presented) The broadcast network access-management system, according to claim 44, wherein the connection between the master decoding device (11) and the slave decoding device (12) remains unchanged when a cable length, a configuration, a number and a quality of splitters and connections do not change.